

# Angling approved in the Upper Columbia under the Endangered Species Act\*

★ Anglers are advised to check with the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife for open seasons, gear restrictions, & other regulatory requirements.

- NMFS issued a permit for recreational fishing after collaborating with the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) & local citizen groups working on salmon & steelhead recovery.
- ESA Section 10(A)(1)(B) Permit 1554 was issued to the WDFW for incidental take of listed species in the Columbia River & the Wenatchee, Entiat, Methow & Okanogan Rivers.
- The ESA permit is based on the Salmon & Steelhead Recovery Plan developed by upper Columbia authorities & adopted by NMFS.

## NMFS' Permit 1554 Covers 10 Distinct Fisheries

### Tributary Fisheries

- Methow Basin Catch & Release Trout
- Entiat NFH Spring Chinook
- Leavenworth NFH Spring Chinook
- Lake Wenatchee Sockeye
- Whitefish

### Columbia River Mainstem Fisheries

- Summer/Fall Chinook above Priest Rapids Dam \*
- Hanford Reach Summer Chinook
- Hanford Reach Fall Chinook
- Non-anadromous below Priest Rapids Dam
- Non-anadromous above Priest Rapids Dam

\*Includes lower Entiat River

### New Fisheries

- Entiat River spring Chinook

### Fishery Area Changes

- Methow trout to protect UCR spring Chinook
- Summer/fall Chinook includes lower Entiat River

### All Fisheries

- Stronger creel monitoring
- Improved reporting requirements
- Increased enforcement tracking

### Strategies

- Abundance based sliding scale for Entiat NFH
- Address Recovery Plan threats
  - Illegal harvest
  - Predation by introduced species
- Require reporting of creel & enforcement

**Impacts to protected Spring Chinook salmon & steelhead:** Requirements designed to protect salmon and steelhead specify that all spring Chinook salmon with an adipose fin, and all steelhead hooked must be released without being removed from the water. Because some mortality from hook-and-release is inevitable, regulations specify hook-and-release mortality levels that will not jeopardize salmon or steelhead. Fisheries must close when hook-and-release mortality reaches authorized levels: in total the ten fisheries may impact no more than 50 natural-origin adult spring Chinook, 186 natural-origin adult upper Columbia steelhead, 8 natural-origin adult Snake River fall Chinook or 5 natural-origin adult Middle Columbia steelhead.

**For a copy of the permit visit:** <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/Salmon-Harvest-Hatcheries/Salmon-Fishery-Management/Sec-10-Harvest-Current.cfm>

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